

Message Text

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TAGS: PINT PINS GH

SUB:NEW SUBVERSION TRIAL AND KOFI AWOONOR'S TRIAL

REF: ACCRA 5934

1. GHANA'S FIFTH SUBVERSION TRIAL SINCE THE JANUARY 1972 COUP OPENED AUGUST 13 AT BURMA CAMP, ACCRA. NAMED AS DEFENDANTS WERE CAPT. J.S.K. VON BUCKUSTEIN (RETIRED), CAPT. J.K. SOWU (RETIRED), SGT. K. AGOHAH, AND W.O. II CHARLES WORMENOR. THE FOUR ARE BEING CHARGED WITH VARIOUS, BUT AS YET UNSPECIFIED, CHARGES OF SUBVERSION. THIS GROUP OF DEFENDANTS, LIKE THOSE AT THE LAST SUBVERSION TRIAL, ARE APPARENTLY ALL EWES.

2. THIS WILL EITHER BE A VERY LONG OR A VERY SHORT TRIAL AS THE DEFENDANTS GIVE NO SIGN OF WANTING TO COOPERATE WITH THE GOVERNMENT. THE OPENING SESSION OF THE TRIAL WAS GIVEN OVER TO LEGAL WRANGLING WITH THE DEFENDANTS REFUSING TO ACCEPT THE CHARGE SHEETS PREPARED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND DEMANDING THAT THEY BE GIVEN A SUMMARY OF THE EVIDENCE AGAINST THEM BEFORE THEY DECIDE WHETHER TO ENGAGE COUNSEL OR REPRESENT THEMSELVES.

3. KOFI AWOONOR'S TRIAL OPENED AUGUST 13 IN ACCRA SPECIAL
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COURT. HE IS BEING CHARGED BY THE GOVERNMENT WITH HARBORING

A CRIMINAL AND HELPING A CRIMINAL ESCAPE.

4. AT THE OPENING SESSION THE PROSECUTION OUTLINED ITS CASE AGAINST AWOONOR. ACCORDING TO THE PROSECUTION, AWOONOR LEARNED FROM MICHAEL HAMENOO (A DEFENDANT IN THE LAST SUBVERSION TRIAL) THAT BRIG. KATTAH WAS IN TROUBLE AND NEEDED TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY. AWOONOR MET WITH KATTAH ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, OFFERED TO HELP HIM, EVEN THOUGH HE KNEW HE WAS INVOLVED IN A PLOT TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT, LET KATTAH STAY AT HIS HOUSE FOR FIVE DAYS, AND THEN DROVE HIM TO A POINT NEAR THE TOGO BORDER SO THAT HE COULD LEAVE THE COUNTRY.

5. AWOONOR, WHO IS REPRESENTED BY THE WELL KNOWN ACCRA LAWYER JOE REINDORF AND BY TSATSU TSIKATA, WHO IS RELATED TO CAPT. TSIKATA, A DEFENDANT AT THE LAST SUBVERSION TRIAL, PLEADED NOT GUILTY TO THE CHARGES. THE TRIAL WILL RESUME AUGUST 20.

6. WHILE AWOONOR IS STILL IN CUSTODY, THERE IS A CHANCE HE WILL BE RELEASED ON BAIL. HIS ATTORNEYS ASKED THAT HE BE RELEASED ON BAIL AND WERE TOLD THAT THE COURT COULD NOT ACT ON SUCH A REQUEST UNTIL THE EXECUTIVE INSTRUMENT WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR AWOONOR BEING HELD IN CUSTODY IS SET ASIDE. ACCORDING TO REINDORF, THE PROSECUTION HAS APPLIED FOR THE INSTRUMENT TO BE SET ASIDE, AND THE BAIL MATTER MAY BE CLEARED UP AT THE NEXT COURT SESSION.

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